

NBTS
M. DIV
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CHRISTIANITY IN NUPELAND: A CASE STUDY OF MOKWA LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA.

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ABSTRACT

This study is an attempt to trace the activities of the Christian Missions in the Nupeland from the 1900 to 1995 touching the roles of the white missionaries of the United Missionary Society and the Baptist Missions through the early Yoruba traders in the land. The missionaries were in the land as early as 1905. While the traders most of whom hail from Ogbomoso town of Oyo State, settled mostly along the railway towns and market towns about the same time.

Mokwa town is also a commercial link between the North and the South of Nigeria. Both the U.M.C.A. and the Baptist Missions had had a lot of impact on different parts of the life of the people. They influenced the people spiritually, socially, educationally and economically. Many of the indigenes testified that these early Yoruba traders have been of great assistance to them in kind and cash, For example, in the training of their children. The indigenes often took loans from these traders to buy their children's school uniform, books and to pay their school fees.

When the Baptist Missions came into Mokwa in the seventies, there was a type of mistrust, fear and suspicion among earlier mission and them. This eventually

died down with time. However, it is sad to note that up till the time of the writing of this paper, the Baptist have not succeed in planting a Nupe indigenous Baptist church in the whole of Nupeland put together.

At the formal inauguration of Niger/Kebbi Conference held in Minna in 1998, the General Secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, Revd. Dr. S. Ola. Fadeji challenged the Conference to this effect. We hope the challenge would be fruitful by achieving the desired objective soonest.

The joint effort of the different Christian missions have left a bold mark of success on the sand of history.

E. Conclusion

Our focus in this thesis is to trace the history of how Christianity entered into the Nupeland using Mokwa Local Government as our case study.

Because of the significant roles which the United Missionary Society and the Baptist denominations played and are playing; we gave them more space in this thesis than other mission denominations whose impact and contribution have just been within the worshippers.

The labour of these mission and their useful contribution in terms of socio-cultural development which led the society into a better state of health cannot be

³⁰Thakur, A Short History of Education in Nigeria, p.3.

denied. The people cannot also overlook the fact that the education given by the missions had led to the raising of modern elites; many of whom are holding different key positions in governmental departments at local, state and federal level. Neither can they erase the religious impact from the sand path of history. For instance, the preaching of one true God, who loves and wants us to love too. Indeed, not only the Nupeland nor Mokwa Local Government but the whole nation owe the Christian Missions much.

This thesis did not overlook the fact that mission education "western education" has destroyed some of our good social values and customs. Let our churches see what they can do to teach Christian ethics in our society to correct her wrongs.

As we encourage the U.M.C.A. and the Baptist Mission in this area to put more grease to their elbows concerning the socio-cultural development, educational development and other areas of development in the Nupeland; we also want to challenge other Christian missions denominations to get up and let their impact be felt in the society.

W. H. Robinson, *Church Growth*
 Ann Arbor, Michigan

Joseph S. Osoji, *Towards an Indigenous Church:
 Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, An Inaugural Lecture*
 Ibadan: University Press, 1979.